

What is a tsunami?

A tsunami is a series of waves most commonly caused by an earthquake beneath the sea floor.

If a large earthquake displaces

the sea floor near the Alaska coast,

the first waves may reach the shore

minutes after the ground stops

shaking. There would be no time for

authorities to issue a warning.

Following an earthquake far out

in the Pacific Ocean it may take

hours for tsunami waves to reach the

Alaska coast. The West Coast and

Alerts local officials who may order an

evacuation, but isolated areas may

not receive official announcements.

If you notice a sudden drop or rise in

sea level, it may be a warning

of impending danger. Move to high

ground or inland immediately.

The waves can kill and injure

people and cause great property

damage where they come ashore.

The first wave is often not the

largest; successive waves may be

spaced several minutes apart and

continue to arrive for several hours.

Tsunami!

**Safety Tips for the Gulf of Alaska
Evacuation Maps
Homer, Alaska**



Entering A
Tsunami Ready
Community

Are YOU
Tsunami Ready?

For More Information:
Contact your
National Weather Service Office
or
Office of Emergency
Management

Where and when do tsunamis

occur?

Tsunamis can occur at any time of the day or night, under any and all weather conditions, and in all seasons. Beaches open to the ocean, by bay entrances or tidal flats, and the shores of coastal rivers are especially vulnerable to tsunamis.

How do I know when to evacuate?

A strong off-shore earthquake may generate a tsunami. Therefore, if you feel the ground shake, evacuate inland or to high ground immediately and return only after officials say it is safe to do so. During distant source tsunami events, local Emergency Management officials will advise citizens to evacuate by making an announcement over the Emergency Alert System or NOAA Weather Radio.

Where do I evacuate?

Go to an area 50 feet above sea level, if possible. If you don't have time to travel to high ground, but are in a multi-story building, go to the uppermost level. If you are on the beach and unable to get to high ground, go inland as far as you can. The tsunami evacuation map illustrates the primary evacuation routes and congregation areas. Take your disaster supply kit with you.

How do I get inland or to high

ground?

Go on foot if possible, particularly if an earthquake has caused damage to roads, power lines, and resulted in significant debris.

Remember:

- Never go to the coast to watch a tsunami. Tsunamis move faster than a person can run. If you are camping on or near the beach, you may have to abandon your campsite to go inland or to higher ground to save your life.
- Do not return to shore after the first wave. Wait for Emergency Management officials to give the "All Clear" before you return.
- If you see an unexpected rise or fall in the coastal water, a tsunami may be approaching. Do not wait – instead move inland or uphill as quickly as possible.
- Stay tuned to your radio, marine radio or NOAA Weather Radio during a disaster. Bulletins will be issued regularly through local Emergency Management officials and National Weather Service.
- Call 9-1-1 only for life threatening emergencies.



For more information, please contact:

**Homer Volunteer Fire Department
City of Homer**

604 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

Phone: (907) 235-3155
Fax: (907) 235-3157

fire@ci.homer.ak.us

Robert L. Painter, Chief
Homer Volunteer Fire Department
604 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, AK 99603

Phone: (907) 235-3155



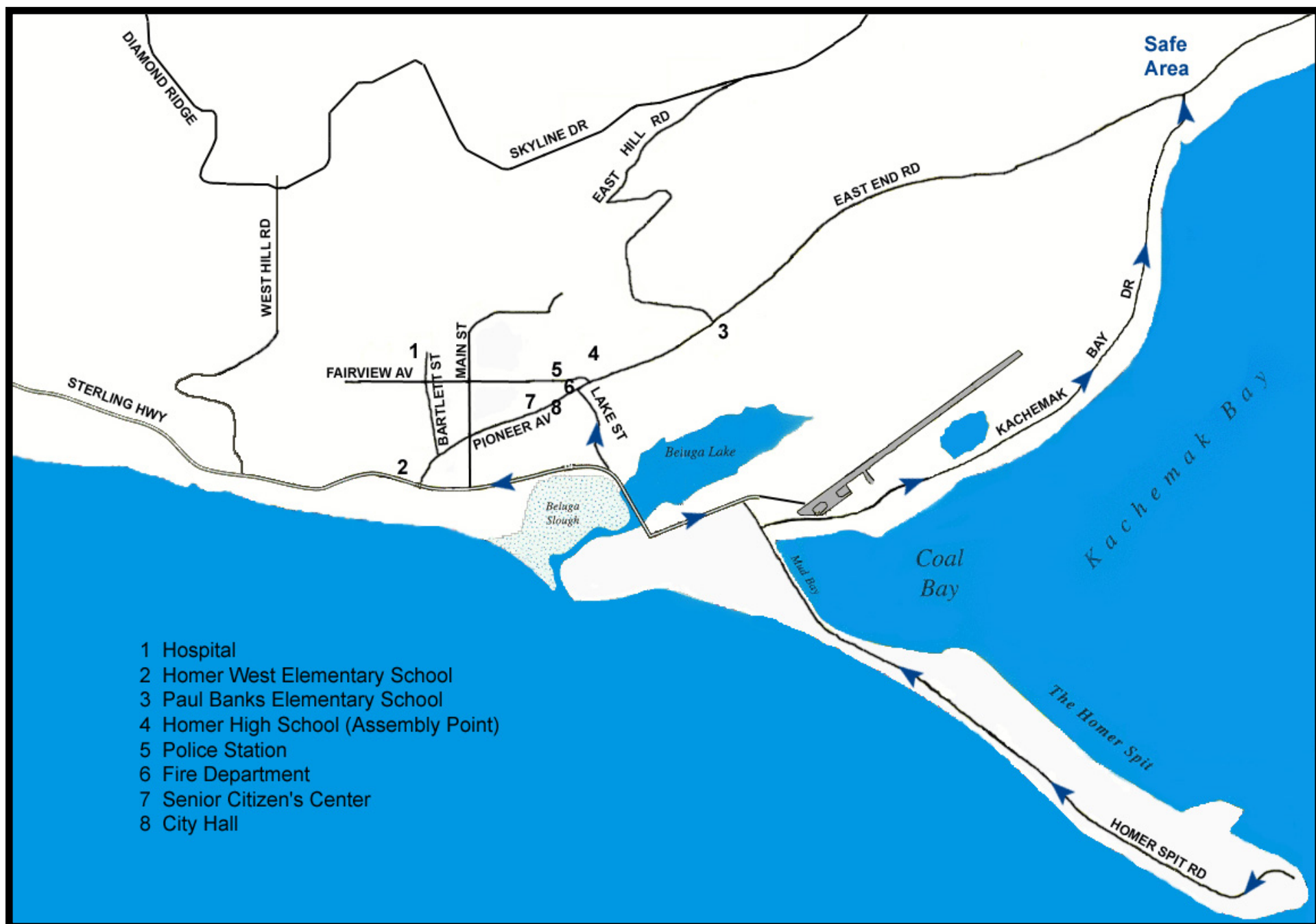
**Alaska Division of Emergency
Services**

PO Box 5750
Fort Richardson, AK 99505-5750
(800) 478-2337 (907) 428-7000
Fax: (907) 428-7009

www.ak-prepared.com

CITY OF HOMER

TSUNAMI EVACUATION ROUTES



When you feel the ground shake:

- **Drop, cover and hold.**
- **Evacuate inland or to higher ground immediately.**
 - Do not wait for notification.*
- **Take your 7-day disaster supply kit.**
- **Listen to NOAA Weather Radio or your local radio station for information on shelter location and emergency broadcast.**
NOAA Weather Radio local frequency:
162.400
- **Beware of aftershocks.**
- **Do not return to the beach until the emergency officials give the "All Clear" notice.**

Disaster Supply Kit

Assemble in a 7-day minimum supply:

- First-aid supplies and minimum personal prescription
- Non-perishable food and utensils
- Water (one gallon per person per day)
- Water carrying bags or containers
- Extra blankets, ponchos and clothing
- Plastic bags for garbage and waste
- Rubber, latex and heavy duty gloves
- Pocket knife, flat 12" pry bar, and duct tape
- Small tent
- Flashlights (with extra batteries)
- Battery-operated AM radio (with extra batteries)
- Whistles
- Dental and personal hygiene items
- Dust masks
- Matches

Evacuation signs and what they mean:

Tsunami evacuation routes were developed to assist coastal residents and visitors find safer locations in case of an earthquake and tsunami. Evacuation signs have been placed along roadways to indicate the direction inland or to higher ground. In some places, there may be more than one direction available to reach safer areas. These routes may be marked with several signs showing additional options for evacuation. You will need to know the evacuation routes for your area.

Community Plans:

Every attempt has been made by local Emergency Management offices to locate evacuation routes and public congregation areas that are safe, within a reasonable distance for foot or vehicle traffic, and accessible within a short period of time. These are difficult criteria to meet in some geographic areas, primarily as a result of private property issues. For that reason, residents who may be impacted by tsunami activity, but do not have an "official" route or congregation area within reasonable distance, are urged to work together to develop an evacuation plan within their neighborhood or community. A plan should address property access issues, evacuation routes, and what might be expected in terms of numbers of people needing to access a locally organized congregation area.

Tsunamis and Boats:

If Emergency Officials have directed an evacuation of all low-lying coastal areas, the chances are good that a moderate wave will arrive, a boat located where large currents may form are better off in deeper water, i.e., 100 fathoms or greater. Every person with responsibility for a boat has to decide whether to move it based on: estimates of weather; seaworthiness of the boat; the time and inconvenience of moving the boat; and the relative safety the berth provides the boat.

A boat threatened by tsunami waves and/or strong currents should be taken to deeper water away from confined channels unless the factors mentioned above over-ride the risk to the boat. Tsunamis create exceptional currents. Water level changes have the potential to move channel markers, expose reefs in otherwise navigable water, and force boats into hazardous areas. When boat owners receive a tsunami warning they must determine how much time is available before the wave arrives and evaluate whether the boat can reach deeper water in the time available before attempting to move the boat. Distant tsunami arrival times can be obtained from the Tsunami Warning system. No attempt should be made to move a boat for locally generated tsunamis.

